

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES
Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

BA 1162
Magi No. 0311625508

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church (Preferred)

and/or common Originally, Pleasant Grove Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 15311 Dover Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Pleasant Grove ☒ vicinity of Councilmanic District 3
congressional district 2

state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

street & number 15311 Dover Road c/o G.S. Benson telephone no.:

city, town Reisterstown state and zip code MD 21136

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building libe RJS 1317

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 476

city, town Towson state MD 21204

Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust

date November 19, 1977 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ coun

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032-2032

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move

BA-1162

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church appears substantially as it did in a photograph of ca. 1900. It is a plain but tasteful, frame, gable-roofed building, four bays deep in the nave with an unsheltered center door with a curved transom flanked by two sash windows. Paired round-topped windows in the gable peak give an ecclesiastical look. There is an open belfry. The church was originally clapboarded but there is now a coating of vinyl siding. The church sits on a slight rise above the road, south side of Dover Road. Plain slab tombstones are scattered alongside the church as if located for artistic effect rather than being a product of geometry.

The 1993 anniversary book shows (p. 21) a large replica of the church built as a parade float for the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial. The style of Pleasant Grove is almost non-Victorian because of its simplicity. The window frames and lineels are materials available for the more complicated homes of the same period.

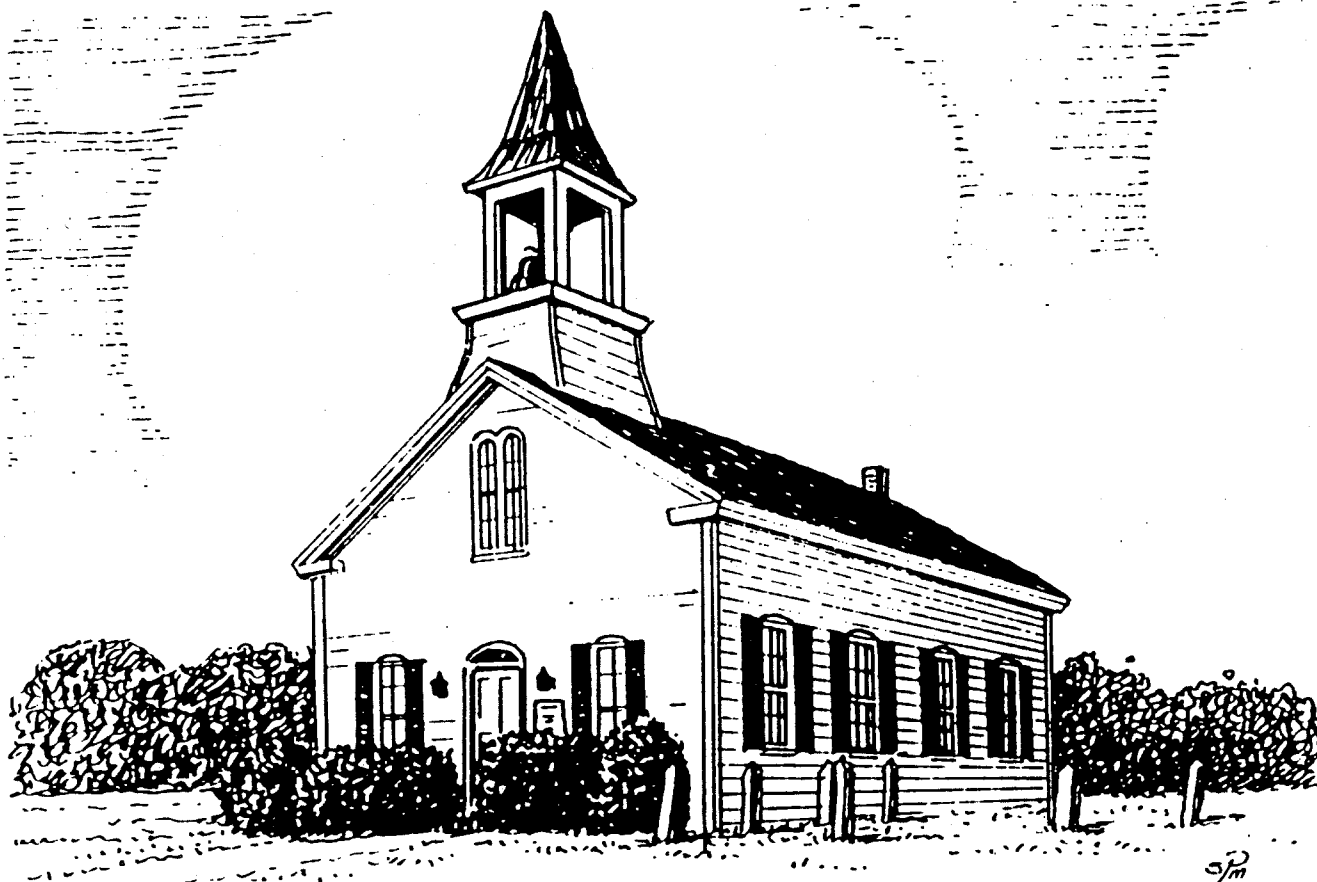
The 1914 Social Hall is a long, frame building six bays in depth with a gable roof. It is covered with brown wooden shingles popular during the colonial revival period. The location is the SE corner of Dover and Pleasant Grove Roads. Surviving papers show that A. W. Armacost was contractor and Mr. _____ Bossom the stone mason. Total cost in July 1914 was \$1,357.30, including some donated materials and services.

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Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church
Pleasant Grove & Dover Rds. Reisterstown, Md

8. Significance

Survey No.

BA 1162

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1867-1868 Builder/Architect UNKNOWN

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Methodists in the Pleasant Grove area met in Wheeler's School House from 1858 to 1866. They were part of the Hampstead Circuit. The Hampstead Methodists had started as a mission of Shrewsbury, Pa., in the 1850s, but later were organized under the Westminster Circuit. After those years in temporary quarters, Pleasant Grove acquired enough members to support a church and the group acquired a parcel large enough to build a church and lay out a burial ground from William C. Harvey and John Myers. The deed was made out to the Rev. Thomas Watts and four trustees on May 11, 1868, including a total of three rods and 20 square perches (Deeds EHA 59:77).

The cornerstone was laid on July 28, 1867, and the new church dedicated on January 19, 1868. On October 26, 1869, Ann Gill was laid to rest at Pleasant Grove, the first person to be buried there. Neither the cornerstone ceremonies nor the dedication can be found in the two weekly newspapers published at Towsontown nor in the Baltimore Sun.

The first trustees were:

John K. Harvey
Henry P. Bolte
William Harvey
John H. Armacost.

The 1993 anniversary book noted that men and women originally sat on opposite sides of the church. There were hitching posts for the horses and oil light inside. The church appears by name in the 1877 G.M. Hopkins atlas plate for Election District No. 4. The anniversary book reported that in 1910 when a social hall was proposed, some members feared its existence might lead to dancing. "However the hall was built" in 1914 through the efforts of the United Methodist Women. A much larger hall, the Tracey Building, was dedicated in 1977.

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In 1968, Baltimore County's thinly spread rural police patrol caught an arsonist in the act of setting fire to the church doors; damage was confined to \$316.11, including some carpet destroyed.

The Pleasant Grove church structure was spared modernization, inspite of the doubling of the nearby population:

Although enlarging the church was determined not feasible, major renovations were made to its interior in 1985, including the installation of two stained glass windows, one on either side of the altar, and a stained glass transom over the front door with the wording, "Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church," all funded by the previous donation of Ivan and Marge Nolte.

The 1968 anniversary book was by Dr. Grace L. Tracey, who included considerable local history and exact dates, including the earthquake of June 26, 1855, and the building of the branch railroad to Hanover, Pa., in 1878. Dr. Tracey noted that Dover Road was called "the Rogues' Path" in one early deed and the "Great Road" in 1794; it later served as a wagon road leading to Richard Johns' Dover Mill. Unfortunately, the book has no architectural facts about the church or its designer and its builder.

This church is a good example of traditional building of 1868, frozen in time, yet maintained and regularly used. Pleasant Grove is an area where some citizens can trace their ancestry to English settlers moving west and north; others trace back to Pennsylvania Germans coming southward. The area had a "Dutch Church" (shown on Griffith's 1795 map at present Arcadia) before there were any Methodist congregations with actual church structures.

The Pleasant Grove School at 15225 Dover Road, now a residence, dates from 1873 and is the successor of Wheeler's School where the church body began in 1858.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 1162

"Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Founded 1868, Celebrating 125 Years in 1993," anniversary book, 1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Hampstead, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Irregular parcel shown on Tax Map 32, Grid 1, Parcel P126.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planningdate February 10, 1996street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone (410) 887-3495city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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